

WORLD AND NATION

Funky Winkerbean

by Tom Batiuk



SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



National education poll

'Americans want reforms'

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Most adults responding to a nationwide survey believe students should pass a mandatory exam to graduate from high school or advance from junior high, the Education Department said Sunday.

The telephone survey, conducted among 1,200 people from November through January, also showed broad support for more math, science, English and social studies in public schools and higher standards for teachers.

More than two-thirds of the participants said they would be willing to pay an additional \$200 a year in taxes to finance education reforms such as better pay for teachers, extra teacher training and smaller classrooms, the department said.

The survey's sample closely reflected the nation's makeup in terms of age, geography, race and family income.

Nearly 53 percent of the respondents attended college or graduated from one, compared to 33 percent for the nation as a whole.

The department said that 95.1 percent of the respondents believed that their local school districts

should require a student to pass reading and math exams before receiving a high school diploma.

About 80 percent of the supporters of high school exams still favored the tests even if their children weren't able to graduate or if it meant that one out of every five low-income children wouldn't get a diploma.

The poll was designed by Michigan State University for the National Institute of Education, a branch of the Education Department. It was conducted by Market Opinion Research Corp. of Detroit.

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